

man. The Heath Hen, as has happened before, became an innocent football of local jealousies of the bitterest sort, and some very extravagant articles appeared in the *Martha's Vineyard Gazette* and the *National Sportsman*, and also in Boston newspapers. The special warden was discontinued by the new committee in the summer of 1928.

It is not true that our special warden was hindered in the performance of his duty by lack of permits for the killing of predatory birds and mammals, either while under our orders or afterwards. He was given adequate authority from the State covering all species of hawks and owls which could by any stretch of the imagination be considered a source of danger to the Heath Hen. But long before this warden ended his period of duty with this committee we felt certain that the decline of the Heath Hen had not been caused primarily by predatory birds or mammals. All these were under good control.

We shall never know for certain the exact cause or causes which have brought about the decline of this interesting species. The factors involved are too many and too subtle to yield to our present crude methods of approaching a complex ecological problem. But, no matter how the decline was brought about, we feel that the State, the conservation organizations, and the many individuals who contributed have all done their part in this attempt to save the Heath Hen from extinction.

HEATH HEN COMMITTEE,

Charles B. Floyd.
Francis H. Allen.
John C. Phillips.
William C. Adams.
Robert Walcott.

Boston, Mass., January 31, 1929.

NECROLOGY

Many members of the Wilson Ornithological Club will regret to hear of the death of Rev. W. F. Henninger, for many years a resident of Ohio, an active student of birds, and a loyal member of the W. O. C.

Walther F. Henninger was born at Herman, Mo., on December 2, 1873. He died at Manchester, Mich., on February 2, 1929, being a little over fifty-five years of age. When eleven years old his father died, and his mother took him to Europe, where he was placed in a school for boys maintained by the Moravian Church. It was here that his interest in nature was first developed. After graduation from this school he returned to America and prepared to become a minister in the Evangelical Synod, serving chiefly in Ohio. From 1922-1927 he represented his Church in Brazil, but impaired health compelled him to relinquish this work. After spending nearly a year at the health resorts of Germany he returned to Ohio, and later took up pastoral work in Michigan. Interment was at Tiffin, Ohio. For some years Mr. Henninger was active in the W. O. C., and held the offices of Treasurer and President.